Stern, Eugene W

August - Oct 1917

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a brief rest preparatory to going to Washington when I have been assigned to the Staff of the Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army.

Apparently younger men are wanted to serve in the Trenches, but I am nevertheless disappointed in not having been assigned with the Line troops - However we are just now commencing and later on I may get there.

The Spirit of the Officers Training Camps was magnificent. I have never met a finer body of men, mentally, morally, physically - There were 600 of us Engineers all in one Camp - Many from the South - and it was

Prospect Park 401
White Plains N.Y.
Aug 29/17

U.S.R.

Dear Sir Robert.

I have just recently heard of the high honors conferred on you by the King and I am to send my best congratulations and the hope that you may continue long in the great work you are doing in the safeguarding of the troops of the Universities - and other National activities.

My course of 3 months training has been completed and I am now serving in

good to see the sons of those who had fought against each other in the Civil War, getting so friendly - and united in this one thing to beat down Kaiserism

Of course it will take time to get our huge armies ready, but I believe now that it is utterly impossible for Germany to win, although the collapse of Russia may prolong the war, We can easily put 3 or 4 million men into the war if necessary, or more - and are planning on a very comprehensive scale

With England & France's assistance it is hoped that we will make no mistakes in our organizations.

and also be able to hasten the building up of our military establishment - to have the benefit of their experiences.

For the first time in the history of the U.S. we are entering on a war with the proper legislation to enable the President to create a real army - and our people are upbraiding the President in a way that is simply splendid. There are no draft-riots, and there will be none - The German armies can't last be said - It don't exist -

Whenever you may come to Washington I should hope to see you - If you will address me as above, the mail will be forwarded

With best regards - Very Sincerely
Eugene W. Stone Major Engrs U.S.R.

September 10th, 1917

Major E. M. Stern,

U.S.R. Engineers,

Prospect Park, White Plains, N.Y.

My dear Major Stern:

On my return from Halifax I find your letter awaiting me and for it I thank you. I congratulate you upon the spirit that you have shown in throwing yourself with such vigour into this terrible struggle, but I feel that the country is to be congratulated in that so many like yourself are giving of their services at the present time. I know how deeply your thought has been engaged in this matter for years and that you yourself are entering upon it from the highest possible motives.

It is a great satisfaction to know that the country is following the lead of President Wilson so wholeheartedly and that as you say the German American ghost has been laid.

I should certainly make an attempt to see you if I were to go to Washington, but as my plans are at present arranged there is no likelihood of my being there in the near future.

About a month ago I had a most interesting letter from Colonel C. F. Mitchell written in the midst of the Messine battle. He has been doing wonderful work. With kind regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
WASHINGTON.

Oct 19/17

My dear Sir Robert

Jam leaving here to day for service in France, whither I go to take charge of Bridge Construction and Highways with some 30000 men — My work here has been on the Staff of the Chief of Engrs, and I believe has been worth while — Of course I am very glad to go and feel that I have been very fortunate —

Will write you from "over there" —

With very best regards

Yours Very Truly Eugene A. Stevens